

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5306

UNCLAS LUXEMBOURG 0706

FOR L

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, LU

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF GROUND BY GOL TO USG ON
BICENTENNIAL

REF: (A) LUXEMBOURG 0665; (B) STATE 163688

1. ON SATURDAY, JULY 3, THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WERE
MADE BY AMBASSADOR GINN IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION OF A
SYMBOLIC GIFT TO THE UNITED STATES OF LAND ON WHICH THE
GENERAL PATTON MEMORIAL STANDS IN ETTTELBRUCK, LUXEMBOURG.

QUOTE: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE CHARLES, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS
PRINCESS JOAN, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER
OF FINANCE, MAYOR OF ETTTELBRUCK, CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE LUXEMBOURG COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES
BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY:

-- I AM PLEASED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SYMBOLIC GESTURE SO
GRACIOUSLY AND GENEROUSLY ACCORDED, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
BICENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN CONNECTION
WITH THE GENERAL PATTON MEMORIAL. MAY WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH
GRATITUDE THE CONTINUING MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES AND LOOK AHEAD TO THE BELIEF THAT DURING
THE NEXT TWO HUNDRED YEARS THIS FRIENDSHIP WILL GROW
AND STRENGTHEN.

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-- THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE GRATEFUL THAT A NATIVE DAUGHTER HAS COME TO BE LOVED AND CHERISHED WITHIN THE GRAND DUCHY, AND TAKE GREAT PRIDE THAT SHE IS CHOSED TO REFLECT ON THIS DAY THE STRENGTH AND REALITY OF THE TIES BETWEEN OUR NATIONS.

-- HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE CHARLES IS HONORED IN THIS CHOICE, FOR IT WAS HE WHO ADDED TO THE LOVE AND ADMIRATION BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND MADE THIS DAY POSSIBLE.

-- THE UNITED STATES OFFERS ITS RESPECT AND GRATITUDE TO THE ENTIRE ROYAL FAMILY, NOT ONLY FOR THEIR GENEROSITY IN THIS SYMBOLIC PRESENTATION, BUT FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL MEASURE OF DEVOTION TO THEIR COUNTRY AND THEIR PEOPLE.

-- MR. DEPUTY-MAYOR, PLEASE CONVEY OUR BEST WISHES AND DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO ALL THE CITIZENS AND TO ALL THE OFFICIALS OF YOUR CITY FOR THEIR CONTINUING EFFORTS THAT "ETTELBRUCK DOES NOT EVER FORGET."

-- TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO TODAY, THE THIRD OF JULY, IT WAS HOT IN PHILADELPHIA.

-- TODAY IT IS HOT IN ETTELBRUCK.

-- BUT IN BOTH TIMES THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF MEN BEAR A COMPELLING CONCERN FOR THE FREEDOM OF MANKIND. END QUOTE.

2. SEE REFTTEL (A) FOR CONTENT OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS JOAN OF LUXEMBOURG IN PRESENTING THE LAND TO THE UNITED STATES. THIS STATEMENT IS PRINTED ON A SCROLL SIGNED BY THE MAYOR OOF ETTELBRUCK, E. JUNCKER; THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT, GASTON THORN; AND ON BEHALF OF LUXEMBOURG U. S. BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL, MAJOR BRAHMS; THE CHAIRMAN, P. GREGOIRE; THE HONORARY PRESIDENTS, P. WERNER AND PRINCESS JOAN OF LUXEMBOURG.

3. PLEASE OBSERVE THAT THE FORM OF THE AMBASSADOR'S UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPONSE CONSTITUTES ONLY AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE SYMBOLIC GIFT AND DOES NOT COMMIT THE EMBASSY OR THE USG TO ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LAND; NOR DOES IT INDICATE THAT A GIFT IN FEE SIMPLE OF THE PROPERTY IS INVOLVED. WE HAVE ASKED THE LUXEMBOURG MFA FOR COMPLETE DETAILS ON THE GOL'S INTENTION IN REGARD TO THE SYMBOLIC GIFT. THE MFA WILL GIVE US AN AUTHORITATIVE RESPONSE SHORTLY, BUT TAKES THE PRELIMINARY

VIEW THAT A SYMBOLIC TRANSFER WAS ALL THAT WAS INTENDED.

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